

A 2

Consolatory Epistle

To the MEMBERS of the
OLD FACTION;

Occasioned by the
SPANISH WAR.

*Tolluntur in altum
Ut lapsu graviore cadant.*

*One Author more will brave
The venal Statesman, and the titled Slave;
Brand frontless Vice, strip all her Stars and Strings,
Nor spare her basking in the Smile of Kings.*

MASON.

By the AUTHOR of
The Consolatory Letter to the noble Lord
dismissed the Military Service.

THE SECOND EDITION.

L O N D O N :

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ERRATA.

Page 11. line 6, *after* "situation" *read* "of affairs".
Ditto, line 10. *for* "of bubble" *read* "of the
bubble".





DEDICATION.

T O

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

WILLIAM PITT, Esq;

S I R,

AS I have been persuaded to *publish* the following Consolatory Epistle, so notoriously in favour of your opponents! It will, undoubtedly, appear, at first sight, extremely strange to present it to you.

Every dedicated piece is supposed to contain something that will give, in the perusal, pleasure and satisfaction to the patron;

DEDICATION.

patron; every dedication enumerates his real or imaginary virtues and abilities: The very nature of the following sheets prevents both.—What pleasure and satisfaction can *you* have in the perusal of a piece confessedly written against you, your judgment, your measures? How can *I* enumerate a train of real or imaginary virtues or abilities in a man, whom I have evidently shewn to be possessed of a very inconsiderable share of either? What then, you will say, induced me to this singular, this extraordinary step?—I will tell you sir.

I would have you dispassionately examine every argument.—I would have you divest yourself of all partiality to Mr. Pitt—That done—where your *find* I have justly exposed your behaviour as a man, a minister, or a patriot, let it be written in GIGANTIC letters, and hung in your study as a beacon, to warn you from ever straying into the same destructive path.—Where you find, if you have penetration enough *to* find, any virtues, abilities,

DEDICATION.

abilities, or patriotism, in your opponents, let them be written in letters of *gold* (I promise you they will not cost you much) and placed by the side of the other, to excite and stimulate you to the acquisition of the same most amiable and glorious qualifications.

After this advice, I hope it will not be mistaken for compliment and fashionable politeness, when I assure you, that I am, with perfect truth,

Sir,



Your friend,

Well-wisher, and

Most humble Servant,

The AUTHOR.

ADVERTISEMENT.

IT may not be improper to premise, that where the author addresses himself to Mr. P's antagonists as being now in power, he does not mean *all* those honourable personages who are so, but *such only* who are members of the Old Faction. In the same light he would be also understood, when he speaks of the opposers of the right honourable person's measures in respect to Spain.—As to the rest of the gentlemen who dissented from the great man's opinion, he is not so well acquainted with *their* abilities and dispositions, and therefore cannot undertake to *determine* upon *what* foundation *they* grounded their objections.



TO THE
MEMBERS
OF THE
BLESSED* Old FACTION.

D-k-s, L--ds, and Gentlemen,



IN my Consolatory Letter to a noble Lord, I observed, that
“ there are few misfortunes
“ can befall a man in the world that he
“ may not bear with patience, provided
“ he has *Philosophy* enough to suggest to
“ himself the reasons, others can easily
“ see, for lessening his uneasiness, and
“ administering comfort to him; and to
“ reflect how much worse things *might*
“ have happened, and what causes he

* So styled by a *celebrated* writer.—See *Impartial Reflections on the present state of affairs*, page 9.—
Printed for Coote.

B

“ has

“ has still remaining for happiness and
 “ contentment; [*O vitæ Philosophia dux!*
 “ Cic.] Persons being seldom, if ever,
 “ so unfortunate, but they have many
 “ blessings left; many resources, and even
 “ many causes of pleasure and satisfaction,
 “ which they, in the height of their grief,
 “ and in the first moments of despair, are,
 “ on any great and heavy misfortune, too
 “ apt to overlook. It is the part of a
 “ friend, on these occasions, to be ready
 “ to support, ready to console, ready to
 “ make the unhappy reflect, that their
 “ calamity is not so severe as they ima-
 “ gine; to make them recollect the ma-
 “ ny reasons they have, *not* to give way
 “ to despair; remind them of whatever
 “ happiness is still left; mention to them
 “ every circumstance in their favour;
 “ and by these, and such like means and
 “ arguments, administer relief, prevent
 “ their despondence, alleviate their sor-
 “ row, and rescue them by degrees, from
 “ what would, otherwise, have been too
 “ powerful for them, unsupported, to
 “ have sustained.”

Homo

Homo sum; humani nihil à me alienum puto.

TER.

“ I am a man, and have a fellow-feeling of every thing belonging to a man.”

The present *unexpected*, I should say (in respect to you) *unwished* for situation between Great Britain and Spain, having raised Mr. Pitt from the depth you had so *gloriously* and *deservedly* plunged him in, to the utmost summit of *bubble* reputation, I could not refrain addressing you on so momentous and *unfortunate* a point; could not refrain endeavouring to “ prevent that despair so great a *mortification*, so heavy a blow, might occasion, if not timely opposed.”

I have long been induced to look upon the opposition between you and Mr. P—, and indeed on all other ministerial oppositions, as a sort of court-pastime; and the more especially as I have experienced, by numberless observations, that grown-up



children are equally fond of diversion with those of younger years.

In those *happy* days, sirs, when you were at school—I should have said *innocent*, had I not been apprehensive your enemies would ill-naturedly interpret the expression into an artful implication that your days are not so now—you must remember sitting across the extremities of a board, and playing at see-saw.—Now, for the life of me, I cannot help thinking your *ups* and *downs* at the helm no other than a mere *state* see-saw; with this only difference, that the *political* board is far more slow and irregular in its motion than the other.—You, my noble d-k-s, l--ds, and gentlemen, I have seen bestride *one* end of the board, whilst the agile great man vaulted into an equestrian position on the *other*.—Fie, sirs, I have more than once said to you—that is, to *myself*, when I have seen *you* at the top—how is it possible so many against one should mount? There must be some *trick* in this! Or you must be formed of materials

rials not so *weighty* and *substantial* as those which compose your opponent! — But these exclamations have ever been momentary; for I presently reflected, that it must needs be the consequence of madam Justice's system being reversed. — In that Lady's balance, merit *preponderates*; but at state see-saw it has, or should have, quite the *contrary* effect. — Indeed I am told, that if the antagonists of merit (Heavens be praised you are no such!) can contrive to get scandal and credulity on their side, their business is done. Truth, patriotism, judgment, penetration, will have, instantly, diametrical appearances: poor merit sinks to the bottom, and up flies the opposite part, though the devil himself should be perched at the end of it. — But I will not *hurt* you with digressions; they are *galling* to *impatient* readers. — To return then. — On the other hand, I have seen the political board so nearly perpendicular, as to throw you all out of your *places*, and yet the great man firmly keep his at the *top*. I wonder'd at the phænomenon! but was presently

sently relieved, when I perceived that it [the board] was *artfully* and *unfairly* supported behind by a pillar inscribed "*Vox populi.*"—I assure you, firs, I was exceedingly concerned to see my friends in such a pitiable plight—floundering like so many *sea lions* or *Newcastle salmon*, unfortunately precipitated on shore.—I wished you (for a moment) wings, like the poetical creatures at the gates of *Bedford* house, to emerge at once from the disreputable depth you had fallen.—Nothing but the cunning of a *F-x* could relieve you—but of this, firs, no more. What an *unlucky* association of ideas! But I am too busy, or too idle (which you will) to alter them.

It is now, firs, the great man's turn to mount; and, according to appearances, he may, if he pleases rise by your fall. At least the war with Spain, so strenuously urged by him when in power, indicates no less. Humanity, therefore, impels me to console you in your present ticklish situation. It is an old adage, and I must
confess

confess myself a profound admirer of proverbs, that “a friend in need, is a friend indeed.” I am happy in the opportunity of proving myself *that* friend. Do not misapprehend me; I glory in the effect, though I lament the cause. Friendship and humanity, sirs, are the most generous passions of the soul. They are not instigated by interest; they are not moved by any selfish principle: the more *abject* the objects, the more it elucidates their disinterestedness, their benevolence. From this faint sketch of these most amiable qualifications, judge ye what an unspeakable heart-felt satisfaction I must enjoy at this moment.—The subject overwhelms me with a tenderness that thrills through every vein—it is too much—I can no more.

I have so much to say in your praise, so many causes for consolation to give you, and so much to prove against the great man, that I am at a loss where to begin first. You must not, therefore, expect a regular chain of remarks on incidents, as they

they originally occurred; but accept them as they arise, *spontaneous*, in my memory.

The ingenious author of the *Impartial Reflections* (mentioned in the note at the bottom of the first page) hath these words,
 “ *But first let us view the procedure of the*
 “ *old Faction* [that’s you, sirs]. *The*
 “ *whole year 1757 had elapsed in a scan-*
 “ *dalous inactivity.*” [There’s a scandalous fellow for y u! Would the bloody minded rascal have no interval in the shedding of human gore?] “ *None of the court-*
 “ *undertakers had so much as dared to*
 “ *think of sending our troops to Germany,*
 “ *deterred by the clamor for which they*
 “ *imagined such a step would give a han-*
 “ *dle*” [mind his *steps* giving *handles*,]
 “ *to real or pretended patriots. The di-*
 “ *lemma was embarrassing: they could not*
 “ *well keep their footing at court, without*
 “ *carrying that main point of having the*
 “ *Germans*” [Hanoverians and Hessians]
 “ *accepted for stipendiaries; a point to*
 “ *which that of exporting*” [I wonder,
 as he had got footing in his subject, and
 his

his band was in, he did not say transporting] “our own troops, was but a subordinate and sacrificed consideration; and “at the same time they deservedly stood so “low in the opinion of the people,” [I’ll take care you shall not stand so long, sirs] “that “they could not take upon themselves a step “so thoroughly disgustful to the nation, as “that of plunging it in a continental war. “In this awkward situation” [that is, standing, and stepping, and footing, and handling it] “were the members of that Blessed “old Faction. The glory of delivering “them was reserved for a hardy adventurer” [Now the great man comes in play.] “in a cap-à-pie brazen armour; “and who owed all his powers to serve “them, to the peoples opinion that he despised them heartily. The event shewed “that the court party knew admirably well “how to make him their tool. This un- “triumphable point” [I’ll convince you presently, Mr. Reflector, that it was a triumphable one] “then they carried; and “as for their own ends and special purposes, that person could hardly have too

“ much popularity, while he should conti-
 “ nue to do that work they wanted him to
 “ do, and which they had neither spirit
 “ nor influence enough to dare to take
 “ upon themselves,” [The gentlemen knew
 a trick worth two of that, Mr. Reflector.]
 “ it was no wonder that all their little
 “ creatures of power should take their cue
 “ from the patrons, and join to fill up that
 “ public cry, by which the virtues of the
 “ great patriot were so loudly extolled.”

By this I suppose the gentleman would
 be understood to mean—That you were
 desirous of Hanoverian and Hessian subsi-
 diaries, inclined to the exporting of Eng-
 lish troops to Germany, inclined to a
 strong continental connection, and *that* to
 please the “ reigning humour of the
 “ court;” but with a view, indeed, in
 the end, the more effectually to serve your
 own particular and private purposes. That
 as the great man stood in favour of the
 people, and you did not, you artfully got
 him raised to ministerial power; wisely
 judging, that as you had not “ *dared*”
 to

to enter into those engagements yourselves, Mr. P. in the spirit of opposition (your not doing it, implying, in appearance, your not desiring it) would enter into them for you; and wisely judging also, that the people, in their affections for the great man, would permit in him what they would not suffer in you.

This I take to be the substance; and I believe, sirs, in respect to your German system, ye can exult with Gloster in Jane Shore, that "*each event hath answered to your wish.*"

But ye will say, my noble friends, that the Impartial Reflector intends it as a satire against your measures; that he seems to think the methods you made use of to compass your views, were mean, deceitful, artful.—Young, in his character of Zanga, has finely drawn the strugglings in a great soul, at being *obliged* to stoop to base unworthy acts in the pursuit of *great* and *noble* purposes. He first recoils,

" *Whither, my soul, ah! whither art thou sunk,
" Beneath thy sphere? Ere while, far, far above
" Such little arts, dissemblings, falsehoods, frauds;
" The very trash of villainy itself."*

A moment's reflection gives him this consolation;

" *But great my ends; and since there are no other,
" These means are just, they shine with borrow'd light,
" Illustrious from the purpose they pursue.
" And greater sure my merit, who to gain
" A point sublime, can such a task sustain,
" To wade through scenes of blood."*

So well I know your *honest* dispositions, I am sure, sirs, your hearts felt the self-same compunctions as Zanga's; and, certain am I, nothing but the reflection, that there was no other way to attain your ends; could possibly make you persevere in such (otherwise) inglorious means.

But how much must it add to your consolation, what an *immensity* of secret satisfaction must it give you, when you consider that you was, unavoidably, influenced by that depravity which Otway hath

so finely asserted to be inherent to human nature! How happy must it make you when you know that it is not characteristic of *you* alone, but of *all* the male part of mankind! His words are,

"Believe not man; he is by nature false."

"Dissembling, subtil, cruel."

To avoid the imputation of partiality, I have hitherto considered you, sirs, as really criminal in this affair, and have endeavoured to console you, and excuse it, by throwing it on the frailty of human nature. So far I have succeeded; but my friendship will not rest it here. My regard for you is too extensive, and my knowledge of things too dilated, to be confined within such narrow limits. No, I will indisputably prove (happily I can do it) that let your enemies set this important affair in whatever light they please, yet, sirs, you merit the highest praise. I will begin with the worst side of the question.

Suppose,

Suppose, for instance, the German war, so far as we are concerned in it, to be highly repugnant to the interests of Great Britain. Suppose that * Mr. M—t, in his Considerations of the German War, “ shews by facts and arguments, forcibly “ urged, and strongly conclusive, that “ we are brought to the very brink of “ destruction, nor have any other means “ of salvation left, but that of instantly “ turning out of that German path into “ which this madman [the great man] “ hath hurried us.” Suppose even (in the anonymous author’s words) “ that “ if ever this country be conquered, it “ must be conquer’d in Germany.” I say, supposing all this, what then? Still, sirs, it cannot rob you of the honour due to you in being the original cause of it.

Did you not know yourselves to be (unjustly no doubt) the hatred of the people? Did you not know Mr. P. to be the object

* See the Letter from the anonymous author of the Letters verified, to the anonymous writer of the Monitor.

of the people's adoration. Did you not "fill up the cry," and join with them in that adoration? And did you not at last delude both him and them into continental measures, the very end you was aiming at? This, sirs, is surely to your honour! You thereby effected a stroke in politicks, which even Machiavel himself would glory in. This incontestibly evinces that you were all born, sirs, for statesmen and for ministers! This incontestibly evinces your great abilities in the stations you so *worthily supply!* And if these considerations will not exculpate you in the eyes of the world, I know not what will!—Your own hearts, at least, can assign you no cause of condemnation, but they can of congratulation: for the anonymous verifying author justly observes, that there is both "a political and a moral conscience." The *moral*, my noble friends, I am sure, has no business in this affair; and as to the *political*, you have certainly obeyed its most *rigid* dictates.

But, on the other hand, if we suppose a continental connection the most eligible

eligible system in the present war; if we suppose it an incontrovertable maxim, that America can only be conquered in Germany; if we suppose that the great council of the nation (justly celebrated for being the most uncorrupted since its happy institution,) after weighing every argument in this important question, are almost unanimously of the affirmative opinion, even to prosecute it with redoubled vigour, and which, I believe, is the case; what honour then must be due to the first projectors of it? The great man, here, is but *secondary*; ye were the "first great cause," and till I, sirs, had the happy opportunity of explaining you, "*least understood.*" The more glorious the German war may terminate, the more verdant will be your laurels. The *effect* merits little praise in comparison with the *cause*. Those who condemn the motives, should remember "*out of EVIL cometh GOOD.*"—Thus, sirs, have I proved the whole reputation to be yours! Thus, sirs, have I rescued you from the universal infamy that hath hitherto

therto attended you!—If this, my noble friends, is not TRIUMPH, henceforth let the word be utterly annihilated. Let Johnson, the literary luminary of the world, blot it for ever from his dictionary.

The Reflector is pleased to condemn you, sirs, for originally joining with the king of Prussia, because it was taking the part “ of a *natural* friend to France, “ *against a natural* Enemy to France: “ *however* (he says) a momentary *occasion* might have changed the permanent “ *system of those courts, in respect to each* “ *other.*”

I have lately met with a very ingenious, I think unanswerable letter, said to be written in the beginning of the year 1761, by the Earl of * * * * *, to M— D—, esquire, which, indeed, agrees with the Impartial Reflector, that the alliance between France and Austria is unnatural; but from thence deduces, that it is the *nature* of politics to have no *permanent system*; and, in regard to the *Eng-*

D

lish

lish, it declares, that it is *natural* for them to be as *changeable* as their *climate*. Which for your satisfaction I will transcribe at large.

“POLITICKS are amongst those sciences,
 “ that, so far from being immutable, not
 “ only change with different systems, but
 “ seem to have as annual a revolution as
 “ the earth, with this essential difference,
 “ they never return to their primary situation.

“ Had a man been brought from some
 “ remote corner of the world, compleatly
 “ instructed in the natural interest of
 “ princes; and the general connection of
 “ European states, but absent from the
 “ scene of action for a few years; could
 “ he ever believe, with all the zeal and
 “ bigotry of the most eminent enthusiast,
 “ that the year 1744, or any of the succeeding ones, as low as 1756, had been
 “ so intirely distorted in their political form
 “ to the years 1757, 1758, 1759, 1760,
 “ or even 1761? By this I would not be
 “ under-

understood to mean any quibble upon
 numerical proportion, or even touch
 upon a specific difference between old
 and new stile. Could he ever believe,
 that a connection, so repeatedly declared
 by all French political writers them-
 selves, not only diametrically opposite to
 the real interest of both Austria and
 France, but also incompatible and un-
 natural, had taken place, in the reigns of
 Maria Theresa and Lewis XV? — Nay,
 not only a defensive alliance, compleatly
 engaged in, and fulfilled, but that Au-
 stria had given into the hands of the
 French, those very low countries, which
 had been a theatre of war, for near a
 century, and which had buried millions
 of French, Germans, and English; and
 exhausted the blood and treasure of half
 Europe, to defend them from the power
 of France?

This is, nevertheless, precisely the
 case. Austria has not only entered into
 an alliance with France, after having
 engaged with the king of Poland and

“ the Czarina, to hunt down the King of
 “ Prussia, and destroy the protestant inte-
 “ rest of the empire; but has also joined
 “ in an open rupture against England, who
 “ engaged with and supported her, in the
 “ last war (to go no farther back) against
 “ the house of Bourbon, and the Elector
 “ of Bavaria, who had nearly transferred
 “ the imperial crown to that electoral
 “ house, when a flood of English guineas
 “ appeared in Germany, whereby the
 “ Queen of Hungary was enabled to re-
 “ turn from Presburg (where she was ac-
 “ commodated with an hospital for a pa-
 “ lace, by her own subjects, of so little
 “ authority did they think her) to Vienna.

“ On the other part the political phæ-
 “ nomena are still supported. We enter
 “ into a strict alliance with the King of
 “ Prussia, and after having allowed him
 “ to be our only champion for two years,
 “ because our American affairs have taken
 “ a favourable turn, we are for leaving
 “ him in the lurch, to be devoured by
 “ Austria, in conjunction with France.
 “ After

“ After having *thrown away* MILLIONS
 “ upon a certain El—e in Germany,
 “ when we had no manner of reason to
 “ be such bubbles, we are willing to let
 “ the inhabitants of that spot be demolish-
 “ ed, without giving any assistance what-
 “ ever, when they have engaged in the
 “ war purely for *our* sakes, and have
 “ been impoverished thereby, to a degree
 “ beyond description.

“ But we are Englishmen, and glory
 “ in a change of measures suited to our
 “ climate. The King of Prussia is, to-
 “ day, the greatest hero that ever ex-
 “ isted; beyond Cæsar, beyond Alexander.
 “ We set our houses on fire to commemo-
 “ rate his anniversary, and scarce burn a
 “ candle extraordinary to remind us of
 “ that of our own sovereign. To-morrow,
 “ what have we to do with continental con-
 “ nections? What is the king of Prussia
 “ to us? he may serve us as the Queen of
 “ Hungary has done; and it is common
 “ prudence in us, to be before-hand with
 “ him.

“ There

" There is a publican in Barbican, who
 " is one of the greatest politicians, if not
 " in Europe, at least in England. He
 " set up in his house last war; and, very
 " prudently, fixed upon a popular sign,
 " the so much adulated *Queen of Hun-*
 " *gary!* And, knowing that the young
 " arch-duke, *Joseph*, stood a fair chance
 " of soon becoming *King of the Romans*,
 " he very advisedly sold the *best Roman*
 " *purl* in the metropolis. The *sign* and
 " the *purl* had the desired effect, and he
 " got as much money as any sutler in the
 " army, as long as we fought under the
 " imperial banner. Peace took place, and
 " the *Queen of Hungary*, the *sign*, and
 " his *purl*, descended into mere *friendly*
 " *powers*: there was no *extraordinary*
 " *subsidy* raised for, or by, either. War
 " came about again; and he was just up-
 " on the point of altering the name of his
 " *sign* to *The Czarina*, when *Frederick*
 " *III.* became so popular at London, that
 " both his *sign* and his *purl* underwent
 " an entire revolution, and are now (even
 " yet) truly Prussian. However, he has
 " not

“ not yet destroyed his *old sign*, any more
 “ than his *parl-lantern*, as he foresees his
 “ customers may possibly have a strict
 “ alliance with them in a short time.

“ This having been the fluctuating

“ state of politics for some centuries, I

“ find a man can form no settled notion

“ upon this head, so as to reason with

“ precision, and deduce certain and indubitable

“ conclusions: I have, therefore,

“ placed politics amongst the occult sci-

“ ences, and leave them to metaphysi-

“ cians, and the learned scholiasts of non-

“ entities to reason upon, and bewilder

“ themselves in their mazes.”

This letter, sirs, places your politics, your measures, if not altogether in a new, yet in a more obvious light, than they have hitherto appeared. You knew the genius of the British people; you acted consistently thereto. Indubitable marks of your penetration and your judgment! The description of the poor Hanoverians suffering for *our* sakes, seems, to me, alone,

alone, a sufficient vindication of the great man's vigorously pushing the German war, and the great council's adopting the same measures. If we have "*thrown away millions*" in distressing a set of wretches, it is but reasonable and *friendly* that we should throw away as many more (pray allow the expression) to prevent their *enemies* ruining them quite. *You, first, began the war there.—Humanity* required, and still requires, a *continuance* of it.—What eulogium can be too high, too sublime, to bestow on you, my great and noble friends, who gave to Britons the occasion for calling forth that humanity! you who feel the effects of it, you distressed Hanoverians! remember the authors of it with that gratitude and veneration, due to such *exalted* characters!—I rejoice, most noble members of the blessed faction, that I have been able to bring to light a virtue in you, which might have otherwise been buried in oblivion.—What title, pontifical, imperial, regal, or ministerial, can equal that of *Fathers of humanity*?—Here my vanity, in spite of every
modest

modest effort to the contrary, will break forth—I cannot stand before the resistless impulse—Congratulate me then (reward me rather with a handsome sine-cure) for not only being the first who ever discovered you, sirs, to be the SIREs of HUMANITY, but for that more amazing discovery, as extraordinary as new, that the MOTHER of HUMANITY is no other than POLITICAL CHICANERY.

It has been remarked, sirs, in some of the public papers, in praise of the great man, and in derogation to you, that “before Mr. P. came into power we lost
“ the island of Minorca ; after Mr. P.
“ came to have the direction of the war,
“ we took

“ Cape Breton,

“ All Canada,

“ Senegal,

“ Goree,

“ Guadalupe,

“ St. Dominico,

“ Pondicherry,

“ Belleisle,

E

“ And

“ And *destroyed* the *greater half* of
“ the FRENCH NAVY.”

If I were to quibble about words, I should assert it were as impossible to divide a navy into *greater* and *less* halves, as into *three* halves. - But I scorn to take such advantages: truth needs no such support. All I shall contend for is, that *he* is but *singly* worthy of praise; and that *you* are *doubly*, if not *trebly* so. I will admit the merit of *planning* these operations to be his—But then, sirs, what a pleasure must it be to you, when you reflect, that in *not opposing* those operations, you certainly deserve the highest praise!—What an addition too to that pleasure must it be, when you consider what a train of praises are your own, in recommending him (it matters not for what purposes, still you *did* recommend him) to that station, where he thought it more immediately his *duty*, and made it his *constant business*, to be indefatigable in forming plans of expeditions for his Majesty's and the kingdom's service! But above all, sirs, to
what

what a summit of happiness must it raise you, when you reflect, that the whole nation is bound to you, in the strongest ties of gratitude, that you did not, through intrigues, cabals, or otherwise, *contrive* to dispossess him of that station BEFORE these conquests were accomplished!

Hold—I fancy I have gone too far; a plague of this head of mine!—Now I recollect myself, I should not have given *all* the merit of planning to the great man: I believe Cummins, the quaker, formed the African expedition; besides, if I remember right, he is *pensioned* for planning and *guiding* of it.—Who knows too, upon my honour I begin to suspect it, but that some other persons, whose *modesty*, or the great man's *vanity*, may conceal their names, planned all the other operations: In that case, mind me, first, in that case (I rejoice the thought occurred to me) there remains no more to Mr. P. than the paltry praise, the bare merit, of having just wisdom enough to penetrate into the importance of the schemes, and

the practicability of carrying them into execution.

What mighty matters are there in all this? I will take upon me to pronounce, if any of you, sirs, had been then at the helm of state, and the planners of any, or all, of these operations had proposed them to *you*, that as soon as you came to understand the utility of them, *as clearly as he did*, you would not have failed putting them into practice, with all that fire, spirit, and impetuosity of expedition [faith I know not whether my phrase be allowable] that the late Mr. Rich so remarkably exerted in his schemes.—Let the great man, or any of his infatuated abettors, stand forth, and say, he *ever* did the same.—I know not how far *ambition* may carry him, or *friendship* them—I am determined therefore to save them the *scandal* of asserting an *untruth*, by positively affirming and declaring, *that* he NEVER did.

I was

I was going to proceed, first, on this subject, when I recollected that I had read, some time since, in the most ingenious, instructive, and entertaining news paper ever exhibited to the public, I mean the St. James's Chronicle, a little piece, signed W. Prynne; in which my sentiments on this occasion are expressed far more forcibly and elegantly than I could possibly write them; warm, zealous, and enthusiastic as I am, in your cause! Lest you may not have seen it, I take the liberty (and I hope Mr. Prynne will excuse the freedom) of transcribing some part of it. Speaking of Mr. P. he says,

“ For God’s sake, what are these great
 “ services that are so eternally din’d in
 “ our ears? It is said, he has taken
 “ Louisbourg, Quebec, and, in short,
 “ made a compleat conquest of North
 “ America; he has taken Guadalupe in
 “ the West-Indies, Senegal and Goree
 “ on the coast of Africa, Belleisle almost
 “ on the coast of France, has destroyed
 “ Cherbourg, greatly damaged St. Maloes,
 “ and totally expelled the French from the
 “ East

“ East Indies; finally, he has carved out
 “ employment for the enemies troops in
 “ Germany, the old grave of France; and
 “ has found employment for their navy
 “ and merchantmen in the ports of
 “ Great Britain. He has done all this,
 “ has he? I thought these successes were
 “ owing to General Amherst, General
 “ Clive, General Wolfe, the late Duke
 “ of Marlborough, Lord Granby, and
 “ Prince Ferdinand, by Land; and Ad-
 “ miral Hawke, Admiral Saunders, Lord
 “ Howe, &c. &c. &c. and about for-
 “ ty or fifty brave Captains, and many
 “ thousands, I might say many tens of
 “ thousands, of brave officers, and British
 “ tars, by sea. This must be acknow-
 “ ledged too; they say, they would not
 “ not depreciate the merit of these vali-
 “ ant and wise officers, or undervalue the
 “ courage of our soldiers or sailors; but
 “ they insist, that we are still obliged to
 “ Mr. Pitt for all these things, as he em-
 “ ployed these commanders, and thereby
 “ encouraged the men to fight; and he
 “ pointed out the business that thus dis-
 “ tinguished

“ their courage and military skill. Well;
 “ but does not every impartial man think,
 “ that if the old ministry had remained
 “ undisturbed by this troublesome man’s
 “ being appointed a principal secretary of
 “ state, they would not have employed
 “ as good men as those that have been
 “ mentioned? Nay, did they not actually
 “ employ as good? Was not the brave
 “ Blakeney at Minorca? Had not the
 “ *once*-valiant Byng the command of our
 “ fleet in the Mediterranean? Was not
 “ Gibraltar safe under the care of General
 “ Folkes? Did they not send the *prudent*
 “ and *experienced* officer General Brad-
 “ dock to drive the French from North
 “ America? Had not Lord Loudon, and
 “ the lord knows who, the drubbing of
 “ the French up and down Canada for
 “ several years? And were not our armies
 “ in Germany full as successful before the
 “ affair of the Caudine-forks at Closter-
 “ Seven as they have been since? Were
 “ not our settlements in the East suf-
 “ ficiently secured by the forces of the
 “ India company? And did not the mi-
 “ nistry

" nistry *talk* of secret expeditions and in-
 " vations on the coast of France for several years together? Nay, can any body
 " forget our *actually landing* near Roch-
 " fort, and marching far enough up the
 " country to take several bunches of grapes
 " in the sight of a whole village? All
 " this, I am sure, the most sanguine
 " Pittites will not be hardy enough to
 " deny. Why then, in the name of Pa-
 " triotism, are we to have the papers
 " stuffed with thanks to this secretary of
 " state more than any other? Nobody
 " ever thought of thanking *other* secreta-
 " ries of state, that have been many years
 " longer in this office than Mr. Pitt. No-
 " body reflects with pleasure upon *their*
 " endeavours for the public good. So un-
 " grateful are these countrymen of
 " mine, that, I verily believe, *not one* of
 " them ever dropped a single tear when
 " *any* of the *late* ministry were removed;
 " and *every body* is now blubbering and
 " grumbling that Mr. PITT has resigned;
 " and are as lavish in their thanks and
 " acknowledgments to him, as if our
 " country

“ country would have been in but an in-
 “ different plight, had not the seals been
 “ given to him.”

There is one thing, sirs, your *friend* Mr. Prynne forgot, and which your *enemies* have, in all their publications, taken care to forget. I mean the *important* conquest of the Isle of Aix; yes, sirs, I call it important, because we acquired by it not only an *immense* number of warlike stores; but, I am told, some household effects (I know not how true) of the inhabitants; a part of the * priest's library, and many, very many, bunches of grapes. — There is one thing, sirs, must give you the highest satisfaction, and for which all Europe must be lavish in your praise; you took the Isle of Aix, at very little expence of blood; you asserted the greatness of your power in the conquest; you gratified a laudable ambition in so

* I was shewn by an officer, though I must do him the justice to observe they were given him by another person, the history of Oliver Cromwell, in two volumes, in French, part of the said library.

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doing;

doing; and then, with a nobleness of mind unparalleled, generously abandoned it to your conquered enemy. It was a DEBT undoubtedly *due* to those supporters and abettors of the great man, who affirm him to have done every thing, and *you* to have done nothing, to excuse you, in some measure, by proving you certainly did *something*: and I heartily rejoice, sirs, that I have so *honourably* WHITE-WASHED you (I know no term so emphatical) from such a set of *merciless* CREDITORS.

By this time, most honourable and much honoured gents and nobles of the faction, you must be thoroughly convinced of my friendship. A friendship which nothing but a total subversion of your present *honourable* principles can possibly terminate on this side the grave. — After such a solemn assertion of inviolable regard, I do not doubt, sirs, but that you will “lend a serious hearing” to the remainder of my *friendly*, my *consolatory* epistle.

I shall

I shall now proceed to the great man's resignation or expulsion; I care not which way it is termed; the same is yours, sirs, either way.

I must agree with the celebrated author of the letters versified (though not, like him, *ironically*, for I detest such a *double* way of writing) that Mr. P. did not *resign*. No, he was *driven* from his post deservedly by a certain faction; and they will ever be remembered, *as they ought*, for the *glorious* opposition that effected it.——It is a common expression, when we would expose an obstinate, perverse, and wilful fellow, to say “he will neither lead nor drive.” Now, sirs, if such is allowed to be a *vicious* temper, and no man in his senses will be hardy enough to dispute it, the contrast *must* be a *virtuous* disposition.——You had meekly suffered the great man a long while to *guide* and to *lead* you.——You was laudably determined to *attain* the *finishing* part of such an amiable character.

—You attempted ; and you succeeded. You *drove* him from the *****
 *****; you *drove* him from the ministry.—Regard not, sirs, the sentence which the partial and the ignorant may pronounce.—If it is not, from this moment, universally *admitted* by the candid and the wise, that *your* motives for this deed were *singularly* virtuous, and that *I* have indisputably *proved* them so, let us henceforth *console* ourselves with the *belief* that truth and justice exist but in idea—or, at most, sirs, exist but with you and with me—for we, sirs, admit it, let who will deny it.

The versifier asserts, that on Mr. P.'s resigning the seals, “ The king, with his
 “ usual goodness, expressed his concern
 “ for the loss of so *able* a servant; and
 “ to shew the sense he entertained of
 “ his services, was graciously pleased to
 “ make him an offer of *any* rewards
 “ in the *power* of the *crown* to bestow.
 “ This (continues he) affected him strongly.
 “ *I confess, sir* (said the great man
 “ to

“ to his majesty) *I did not come prepared*
 “ *for this exceeding goodness. Pardon*
 “ *me, sir——it over-powers; it op-*
 “ *presses me.——He burst into tears.*”

What a field is here for consolation, for exultation, for rejoicing! By *obliging* the great man to resign, sirs, you had the happy, the glorious opportunity of throwing an additional lustre on the character of your sovereign, the best, the most beloved of monarchs; and at the same time making apparent in the great man *that* virtue, which the world might otherwise never have known him possessed of; I mean, that most amiable of all other virtues, GRATITUDE. — “ *It over-powers; it oppresses me.——He burst into tears!*” What could a heart, surcharged with gratitude, like his, do more? What offering at the shrine of benevolence, so acceptable, so proper?

I am in raptures, my very noble friends, that I have it thus in my power to rescue you from that contempt the public have hitherto held you in. You may depend
 on

on the same good offices to the end of my epistle ; to the end of my life.

Mr. P. in his letter to the worthy alderman, says, “ most gracious public “ marks of his majesty’s approbation of “ my services *followed* my resignation. “ They are *unmerited*.” The versifier observes, “ to say that this bounty was “ *unmerited*, is indeed a compliment “ justly paid to his majesty’s generosity, “ though paid, perhaps, not without some “ reproach to his discernment.”

I am sensible, sirs, and you must be sensible, all the world indeed are sensible of it, that his majesty’s great sense, judgment, and oeconomy, would not suffer him to lavish away thousands a year for services “ that scarce de- “ serve the name of services.” No, sirs ; his majesty’s bounties have ever been “ guided” by discretion. In truth, the *reward* or *pension* (call it as you please) *was merited*. What trust, sirs, can be hereafter put in a man, who can audaciously assert such a *glaring falsity* to all

all the world? Stay—perhaps I accuse him too rashly—I think I plainly perceive his motive—I have already told you what a fatiguing post Mr. P. had of it. How *anxious*, how *constant*, how *indefatigable* he was in the *duties* of his office. I have already told you what a *grateful* heart the great man possesses.—It is obvious then, that *gratitude* got the better of his *veracity*. You had *kindly* contrived to *force* him from that troublesome office; that load of honourable misery! and in grateful return, he modestly *suppressed* his deserts, that no imputation might light on you, as the REMOVERS of MERIT *from the HELM of HONOUR*.—How happy are ye, firs! what a consolation must it be to you, that *all* your *favours* are not thrown away! that the world is not yet degenerated so far, but one person still exists, who nobly sacrifices even the dearest consideration in life, *his justly acquired merit*! to evidence how truly sensible he is of this your last great *obligation*, so *generously* conferred upon him,

Such

Such admirers are ye, firs, of *impartial* justice—Such an admirer too am I—notwithstanding the little, very little! affection I bear the great man—that my vindication of Mr. P. in one *small* point will be pardoned. The versifier in his anonymous letter asserts, “that a
 “ noble duke gave the right honourable
 “ person a seat in the last parliament
 “ for a borough in Yorkshire, and had
 “ him chosen without trouble or expence.
 “ From that very seat did the honourable
 “ gentleman personally and scurrilously
 “ abuse his benefactor, as well as violently
 “ oppose his German measures. Is not this
 “ an instance (continues he) detestable
 “ and horrible, that the gentleman is *unin-*
 “ *fluenced by any obligations?*”—I say,
 no. Suppose, for instance, Mr. Versifier should be chosen for any borough, free of expence, by the unanimous voice of his electors: Suppose his constituents should send him instructions for his conduct in parliament so contrary to his own sentiments, as to appear to him
 highly

highly detrimental to the interest of his king and country. Will this gentleman take upon him to say, that to shew he was not “ uninfluenced by any obligations,” he should follow those instructions so diametrically opposite to his own opinion? Nay; would he not zealously and arduously *oppose* those measures? I hope so, “ for the honour of a freeborn Englishman, for the honour of human nature.” Nay more—if his constituents *personally* and *scurrilously* upbraided and *abused* him first [for Mr. Verifier took care to forget that part of his ingenious tale] for not implicitly and blindly following their *dictates*, has he so little of human frailty [morally speaking, it may be a frailty] in him, as not to resent and return that abuse?——Stay; what have I been about all this while?——I thought I should find out something at last against the great man in this affair.——Mr. Verifier, in some measure, is in the right—Mr. P. in opposing the measures of his benefactor, because he thought them repugnant to the good of his country,

G

try,

try, *did*, most undoubtedly, shew, that he was so silly and unfashionable a *Patriot* as to be “UNINFLUENCED by ANY obligation.”

Sure, sirs, you are now convinced of my extensive abilities. I have just now shewn that the great man *was* “influenced “by obligations,” even so far as to give up his title to merit. In the preceding paragraph I have shewn that Mr. P’s opposing his benefactor (as he is stiled) was *not* a proof of his being “uninfluenced by any “obligations,” and that it *was* a proof.—What imagine ye, sirs? Should I cut any figure at the bar? Do you think I should make any proficiency in the *turns*, and *twists*, and *twinnings* of the law? Will this epistle, think ye, evince my knowledge in handling a *bad* cause, and supporting a *good* one?

An acquaintance with your impartial justice induced me, sirs, to wander somewhat from my subject—The same motive tempts me to stray a little farther—It is in behalf of Mr. Alderman B—.

Our

Our ingenious anonymous versifier has *wasted* whole pages in versifying and making remarks on a letter, which he affirms to be written by Mr. Alderman B——, in answer to the right honourable person's epistle to him. I am sorry such a deal of *fine* wit and satire, which he is so happy in *making*, should be lost from this moment——I am almost tempted to suppress the anecdote, that the “im-
“ mortal” versification may not taste of mortality——“ but it wo'nnot be.” Pray then, sire, you who are known to the versifier, acquaint him that this same letter which he ascribes to Mr. Alderman B—— was *not* written by that gentleman. The honour of the epistle, I fancy he will find, is Counsellor W——'s, of the Temple. Another bottle-conjuring affair, to catch such credulous weak gentlemen as Mr. Versifier! — If he does not credit this anecdote, pray intreat him to enquire of Mr. Printer of that news paper in which it first appeared,

And now I am upon anecdotes, be so obliging too, sirs, as to ask Mr. Versifier, if he can tell you who was the author of a *successless* letter, written to a *friend* of a right honourable gentleman's, requesting a post of some consequence in the great man's disposal. "*****
 "***** *Mr. P—'s virtues have raised him to that eminence*
 "of station he so worthily fills——***
 "*****
 "*****
 "***** *He has ever expressed*
 "himself highly in my favour—I know
 "your influence over him——The ***
 "***** is vacant. *A word or*
 "two, warmly urged, may fix it mine."
 —To what lengths of revenge will not the *disappointed* run!

I would again, sirs, ask your pardon for this trouble (so foreign to the avowed intention of my epistle) did I not know, that the *compliment* it pays to your justice
 and

and impartiality, more than balances the liberty taken.

I now return to the resignation —
 Mr. P. says, “ a *difference of opinion* with
 “ regard to measures to be taken against
 “ Spain, of the highest importance to the
 “ honour of the crown, and to the most
 “ essential national interests (and this
 “ founded on what Spain had *already*
 “ done, not on what that court may
 “ farther intend to do) was the *cause* of
 “ my resigning the seals. Lord Temple
 “ and I submitted in *writing*, and *signed*
 “ by *us*, our most humble sentiments
 “ to his majesty, which being over-
 “ ruled by the united opinion of the rest
 “ of the king’s servants, I resigned the
 “ seals,” &c. &c. — I am sorry, sirs,
 to say, that the unavoidable war with
 Spain (I call it unavoidable, sirs, as the
 world thinks you would have avoided it,
 if possible) has now convinced the nation
 in general, that Mr. P. had more pene-
 etration than all his opponents in the
 ***** put together. I say, sirs, my
 parti-

partiality for you and your cause (which is so glaringly visible throughout this epistle) occasions my being exceedingly sorry that I am obliged to make such a concession—The surgeon, you know, who attempts to heal, or relieve a wound, cannot avoid giving *some* pain in his operations—That, *sirs*, is my situation; and, in this point, though I may not absolutely cure, I can certainly relieve. The great man signed a paper with his sentiments respecting Spain; the event hath shewn he was in the right—But, *sirs*, it has not appeared to the world that *you* signed any paper in opposition to those sentiments. Rejoice then, my noble friends, at this fortunate, this lucky escape. You have the happy opportunity (I pray embrace it, *sirs*) of *denying* that you ever *did* oppose him, and of bringing the argument *against* you *for* you. “ Does not (you may assert) our “ *agreeing* to a war, *so soon after his re-* “ *signation*, sufficiently evince that we “ were *always* of that opinion? Is it “ reason-

“ reasonable to suppose so many of us
 “ should *change* our sentiments in so
 “ short a time ?” — “ True, sirs,” (me-
 thinks I hear somebody answer) “ it is
 “ not reasonable — and notwithstand-
 “ ing all that has been said about an op-
 “ position, I do, on reflection, firmly,
 “ verily, and from my heart believe,
 “ there was no *real* opposition ; because
 “ a war with Spain appears to me to
 “ have been *then*, as well as *now*, most
 “ obviously eligible to the meanest capa-
 “ cities.”

Faith, sirs, I have admirably extricated
 you here — I mean, the *world* will say
 so — but *I* despise all such fallacious
 extrications — *I* condemn such a tri-
 umph. — *I must* prove, and *I will* prove,
 that there would have been no occasion
 for a war with Spain had not the great
 man, by his ill-judg'd proceedings, brought
 it inevitably on us ; and that you acted
 like an honourable worthy humane set
 of Britons in opposing him, his mea-
 sures, and their destructive consequences.

It

— It is true he has lost his power, and yet in respect to this confounded Spanish war, there is cause for lamenting, in the words of Cato, that

“ Success still follows him, and backs his crimes.”

Mr. P. seems to lay the whole strength of his cause in this one article. That the measures he proposed against Spain were in consequence of what they had *already* done, *not* what they *intended* to do. — It, therefore, sirs, behoves me, as your friend, to consider what they actually had done. This Mr. Rolt, the author of the history of the last war, has enabled me to do with very little trouble to myself; that gentleman having lately collected together a series of facts (which he is weak enough, sirs, to stile *insults*) committed by the Spaniards since the commencement of the present war against France; and which, he advances, are as naked and plain as they are incontestibly true, and can be authenticated.— They are as follows :

I. “ The

I. " The affair of St. Lucar, a Spanish
 " port about seven leagues from Cadiz.—
 " There were eleven sail of English ves-
 " sels in that harbour, who sailed out
 " with Spanish pilots on board; and at
 " the mouth of that river, between the
 " two necks of land, and in shoal water,
 " they were followed by a French pri-
 " vateer, and brought back. Great ap-
 " plication was made by the late Sir Ben-
 " jamin Keene to the court of Madrid,
 " but to no purpose; they were deemed
 " good prizes, although taken within
 " the land."

How foolish, firs, and ill-judged, it was in Mr. P. to require such an application! Mr. Versifier says, " when
 " it was urged at the C——l B——d
 " that the Spaniards would think twice
 " before they declared war against this
 " kingdom," that the *spirited* answer of the great man was, " I will not give
 " them leave to think." I believe, firs, it is *your* opinion that Mr. P. had better have given *himself* " leave to think," before he sent such orders to Sir Benjamin.

Must not the precipitate man know that it would naturally *affront* the Spanish court? Who, *but such a minister as himself*, would run the hazard of affronting so *friendly* a power for a few paltry merchantmen? Not you, sirs, I dare take upon me to declare.—Reflect then, my noble friends, what an incumbent cause you have for consolation; what reason rather for exultation and rejoicing, that heaven, when it formed you, beneficently endowed you with such praise-worthy *pacific* dispositions!

II. “ The affair of the Antigallican,
 “ and her prize the Penthievre.—The
 “ treatment the late Sir Benjamin Keene,
 “ our then ambassador at Madrid, re-
 “ ceived on that occasion, are facts so
 “ well known, and so recent in the
 “ minds of every one, that there is no
 “ occasion to comment further upon
 “ them; but refer the curious to the
 “ Antigallican’s letters so lately pub-
 “ lished.”

The Antigallican and her prize!
 ————Yes ———— here’s another instance

of the great man's sagacity — folly, I should have said — What a piece of work did he make about a *single* English ship, a *single* prize ! No wonder poor Sir Benjamin was ill-treated at the court of Madrid. Is it not notoriously known that our busy meddling secretary of state dispatched remonstrance after remonstrance *only* about this *trifling* affair. If the haughty Castilians resented such usage, and which undoubtedly assisted in bringing on this lamentable catastrophe of a war, who are we to thank for it but Mr. P. ? — Nay he was not contented with *inconsiderately* remonstrating by the common channel of conveyance, but he even *rashly* countenanced Messrs. Sherratt's and Schomberg's journey to Spain *on purpose* to remonstrate the injustice of detaining, and to solicit the return of the said ships. Would any sensible *thinking* man have done the like ? But I have already proved that he would neither give *himself* "leave to think," nor was for permitting it in the *Spaniards* ; — like the *dog* in the manger, who would neither

eat the hay himself, nor permit the ox to eat it. Did not the French *affirm*, that it was not a lawful prize? And was it not *reasonable* in the Spaniards to *credit* the affirmations of their friends, relations, and fellow catholics, *before* a parcel of unaffined and unbelieving English heretics? — I am almost mad with choler at the great man's behaving so ridiculously absurd! What occasion, sirs, is there for wishing that *you* had been *then* at the helm of state? “ Oh glorious thought! “ I will enjoy it, though but in idea;” *You* would have taken no such steps; *You* would have been more temperate; *You* would have been more generous; *You* would not have *distrusted* the *honour* of the *French*; *You* would not have *disputed* the *equity* of the *Spaniards*. How prudent! how passive! how amiable! how virtuous!

Here, sirs, I cannot help giving you an anecdote—or two.——The captain of the Antigallican would probably have found it no great difficulty to have
got

got to Gibraltar with his prize; but then, it was not so promising a market as Cadiz for the sale of such a valuable acquisition; and it is every commander's business to do the best for his owners. The Spaniards were not unacquainted with his motive for coming there; and, in return, when they found how things were to happen, tauntingly laughed at several of the officers, repeating some old Spanish proverbs (of which they are extravagantly fond, no language abounding in more) that agree near with, Now "you have brought your pigs to a fine market!"—"All covet, all lose!"—Some people would think *this* an insult: You know better, sirs; Why should not those "laugh that win?"

The next is a more particular anecdote. Mr. S*****, when he was in Spain, found means, *some-how*, to acquire intelligence of some private transaction in the Spanish cabinet, and transmit a tolerable account of it here. The Spaniards
had

had information given them of Mr. S*****'s notable discovery of this secret, and issued out orders to apprehend him. They, luckily, arrived half an hour too late; he and his colleague had embarked and escaped; otherwise the enraged dons would have inevitably tuck'd them both up as spies. Would you, sirs, would any prudent men like you, have voluntarily run such hazards for the service of their country? Ay, but you will say, the expected reward for so important a service—or, in Richard's words, “to *serve yourself*, good Buckingham.”—True, that might be some inducement to *him*, but none to *you*. Happily fortune hath been most lavishly kind: it would be folly, therefore, to run the hazard of *your* lives on *any consideration*.—But to go on—Mr. S*****, I am well informed, elated with his success, made an offer to the great man, that if he would send him to Spain in any *public* character (for if he returned there as plain *private* Jack S***** he should be hanged) he would be
 answer-

answerable for it that not the least circumstance should occur in the cabinet of Madrid, but he would instantly dispatch an account thereof to our secretary at London.—How much, sirs, was the great man to blame for not employing of him! I pronounce *you* would have made *no* scruple. Suppose he had *failed* of his intelligence, or, what would have been worse, sent wrong intelligence, of what signification could the loss of a few thousands of the *public* money have been, either in supporting Jack in his *public* character, or those mistaken measures which his false intelligence might have possibly occasioned? I say, what would have signified such a paltry loss, when considered with the greatness of the attempt?—What *can* be the reason then that the great man did not acquiesce in the proposal?—Why, *only* this, I assure you — Jack had too much honour to betray the means of his intelligence, past, present, or to come; and the great man was too hard of belief to confide in him without it.—What a weak objection!—Now proceed we,

III. “ His

III. " His Majesty's ship the Experiment was chased off the coast of Spain
 " by the Telemachus privateer of near
 " double her force; but by the gallant
 " behaviour of Captain Strachan and his
 " crew, the French were almost all cut
 " to pieces, when the Telemachus struck,
 " and Captain Strachan stood afterwards
 " for the Spanish coast, when he sent his
 " boat with his master and four men on
 " shore to land some of the prisoners, and
 " bring him off some necessaries. The
 " boat was immediately detained, and the
 " officer and crew thrown into prison;
 " the governor alledging, that the French
 " ship was an illegal capture, though she
 " came off from the land where she lay at
 " an anchor, and pursued and first en-
 " gaged the Experiment."

I cannot help wishing, sirs, that Captain Strachan had gone on shore himself, instead of sending his master. What punishment did he not deserve for daring to fight a ship of double his force? What chastisement too great for inhumanly hazarding

zarding the lives of so many of his majesty's subjects in such an unequal contest? Some people, I believe, (I do not judge by you, sirs) imagine British valour capable of accomplishing any thing!—You, sirs, you whose virtue and humanity are so eminently conspicuous, would ~~you~~ have done this? Step forth any one amongst you conversant in naval affairs, and tell me if a mere *privateer* could move you to the perpetration of so horrid a slaughter! a *barren* privateer? FAME, I am convinced with Young, is nothing more than AIR. Who then would purchase it with blood? Indeed, sirs, had the Telemachus been as *fruitful* as was our *intrepid* naval hero's ever memorable Aquapulco man, it might have tempted even cowardice itself to try the *experiment*.—"The governor alledged "that the French ship was an illegal "prize!" So it surely was. Mind the difference, sirs; the Telemachus chased the Experiment, not the Experiment the Telemachus. How then could it be a *legal* capture?—Pray let me illustrate this—Suppose, sirs, any, or all of you, were

I

chafing

chasing the noble lion; suppose the savage creature (you know our *polite* enemies hold *us* in no other light) should stop short, turn upon you, seize, and conquer you; would any reasonable person, for such a casual turn of affairs, affirm that you were *legally* over-powered? Or, in other words, *legal* game? — “Shame, “where is thy blush!” [I speak to Mr. Secretary that was, sirs] to dispute the justice of the Spaniards? To make wisdom, judgment, impartiality, and equity our enemies? — The man indeed of little discernment might pronounce it *legal*, for the very reason that the more penetrating Spaniards would not. “The “royal beast should not have been first “attacked, provoked, and moved to “anger.”

A thought has just popped into my head; I must indulge it; strange, romantic, and absurd, as it may appear! — If our *sportsmen* were to become *game*, and the *bunted* become *hunters*, the Lord have

have mercy upon many of them (I tremble for some of you, firs!) though only the naturally timid *Hare* should be the pursuer.

IV. “ About June, 1760, the *Saltash*
 “ sloop of war chased on shore a French
 “ row-boat a few leagues to the eastward
 “ of Almreia bay, and some time after she
 “ took a French row-boat off Mahon, and
 “ put a midshipman and fourteen men on
 “ board, and some time in the following
 “ month came to anchor in that bay.
 “ The Spaniards detained her, and made
 “ the men prisoners: upon which the
 “ Captain of the *Saltash*, finding his prize
 “ not come out, sent his boat with the
 “ master and five men to know the rea-
 “ son; who, on coming on shore, were
 “ threatened by the Spanish soldiers to be
 “ fired at, unless they hauled their boat
 “ ashore to a port a quarter of a mile
 “ from thence, which they refused to do;
 “ insisting, as British subjects, they had a
 “ right to Spanish protection: whereupon
 “ they seized the boat’s crew (as well as

“ the prize) and put them into the com-
 “ mon prison, where the master was
 “ struck and abused by the soldiers, and
 “ all the rest used with great cruelty, and
 “ refused the use of pen, ink, and paper.
 “ The Saltash was not able to get her
 “ men, to the number of twenty, who
 “ are now there. The Spaniards sent the
 “ master of a Catalan bark to prison, for
 “ carrying a message from one of the
 “ prisoners to Gibraltar.”

What a cursed bustling piece of work
 now is here-about a tiny row-boat or two !
 The *worthy* Spaniards, no doubt, were
 of opinion, that it was neither humane
 nor honourable for Captain Saltash, in a
 sloop of war, to pursue and take a little
 row-boat, and *frighten* a few poor harm-
 less Frenchmen, who were, probably, only
 out *upon a party of pleasure*. Who can
 blame them then for seizing this prize so
ungenerously made so ? Who condemn
 them for punishing those who were aiding
 and assisting in such an *unmanly* act ?—
 As to the master and the five men, they
 surely

surely merited *their* fate. They went with an *avowed* intention of *insulting* the Spaniards, by demanding the reason of their detaining the prize. They were threatened to be fired at if they did not *haul* their boat to another port, *only* a quarter of a mile from where they then were; and the fools, in return for so much *civility*, ungratefully refused, insisting they had a *right* to Spanish protection, as being British subjects. As being *British* subjects! If that were all, how much greater *right* had our enemies, as being *French* subjects, naturally cemented to each other in the strong ties of kindred and religion? Besides, the Blockheads! were they *denied* protection? The Spaniards, very *friendly* and kindly, offered it to them at *another* port; and should “*Beggars, sirs, be chusers?*”

V. “Alguziers, a Spanish garrison opposite to Gibraltar, has ever been a receptacle and asylum for those piratical French row-boats. An English vessel
“ was

“ was brought in there by a French pri-
 “ vateer, taken close in with the Spa-
 “ nish shore. Sir Edward Hawke with
 “ his fleet then lay in Gibraltar bay, and
 “ sent to the Spanish governor to demand
 “ the restoration of that ship; which the
 “ governor haughtily refused; but Ad-
 “ miral Hawke, with a true British spirit,
 “ like what was formerly done by Admi-
 “ ral Blake, sent his boats, manned and
 “ armed, to cut out the English ship so
 “ unjustly taken, which they bravely ef-
 “ fected from under their forts, and car-
 “ ried her to Gibraltar; but the Spaniards
 “ fired all the time and killed about 150
 “ English. This, Lord Tyrawley, the
 “ the late governor of Gibraltar, and Sir
 “ Edward Hawke, remonstrated strongly
 “ by our ambassador to the court of Ma-
 “ drid; but to no effect.”

Now, sirs, you see a glaring instance
 of the destructive consequences of the great
 man's pernicious maxims! No less than
 the first General and the first Admiral
 in the world, exhibiting striking proofs
 of

of the baleful influence of his rash, precipitate, impetuous methods of proceeding. Here are one hundred and fifty English lives thrown away after a paltry English vessel, and all forsooth to manifest a *true British spirit*; and, notwithstanding the vessel was recovered, yet must my Lord and Sir Edward *remonstrate* too. It was indeed “without effect;” and I may venture to say, ought to have been. It is injustice, it is cruelty to the last degree, to imagine the Spaniards would have inhumanly *murdered* so many brave Britons, if the French had not *properly* convinced them that it was a lawful prize.—Be it remembered, sirs, where I speak of the justice, humanity, sincerity, or any other virtue of the Spaniards, that my sentiments are not only founded on those facts which I exhibit as so many unquestionable proofs thereof, but on that surer foundation, a reliance on your superior judgment and penetration: For surely, sirs, your activity in opposing the great man’s “*spirited*” proposal, denotes and demonstrates you have no less opinion of
that

that nation. Mine is therefore only a *friendly* attempt to illustrate the justness of your sentiments, by impartially shewing how highly they are deserving of your good opinion. — I do not doubt, sir, but the progress I have made, and the proofs of *uncommon* friendship I have given you, fills you with transports too great to be *suppressed*, yet (paradox as it may seem) too great to be *expressed*.

VI. “ Very lately the Speedwell cutter, commanded by Lieutenant Allen, was chased into the harbour of Vigo by the Achilles, a French man of war, and there made a prize of by her. Mr. Allen has been tried at Spithead for losing his Majesty’s cutter, and honourably acquitted; but the court declared their opinion, that she was an illegal prize, and taken contrary to the law of nations.

VII. “ In Cadiz, during this war, were many French privateers, manned and fitted out by Spaniards, built under the windows of the Governor’s house, where
“ they

“ they lay, and, in his sight, when
 “ any English vessel sailed out of the har-
 “ bour, would follow instantly and bring
 “ her in; though, on the contrary, if
 “ any French ship should sail out, no
 “ English ship of war dared to follow her,
 “ or sail out of the harbour in less than
 “ twenty-four hours; and the garrison
 “ guns were always ready to protect a
 “ French ship.”

VIII. “ In the harbour of Vigo, about
 “ six months ago, there were upwards
 “ of thirty French row-boats; in which
 “ thirty boats there were not above thirty
 “ Frenchmen, one in each boat, and the
 “ rest of the crews all Spaniards, and
 “ these fitted out by the Spaniards there,
 “ and at St. John de Luz.”

IX. “ At Cabaretta, a small town on
 “ the Spanish coast, in the gut of Gibrat-
 “ tar, where is a castle and some few
 “ guns, are always a fleet of French row-
 “ boats at anchor under those guns; I dare
 “ say with not one Frenchman on board,

K

“ mostly

“ mostly Spaniards and Genoese, but fit-
 “ ted out by Spaniards, who, in a piratical
 “ manner, watch and seize all English
 “ vessels which pass without convoy,” or
 “ happen to be becalmed. This is
 “ greatly detrimental to our garrison at
 “ Gibraltar, as many of those vessels are
 “ generally bound there from Ireland,
 “ &c. with provisions.”

I will not, sirs, comment on *all* the articles ; the four last I leave to your own decisions. If you follow my steps in deliberating, and adopt my method in illustrating, you will, doubtless, draw the same conclusions from the *latter*, as I have done from the *former*. In this compliment to your judgments, you have the highest cause for joy. Your incautious enemies imprudently advance that you are capable of *nothing*. By leaving these articles to your *own* observations, I have shewn that *I* know you capable of *something*. — Nay, though I may be accused of *singular partiality* in my *friendship*, yet, to their utter confusion, I do here per-
emp-

emptorily and solemnly pronounce, without hesitation, prevarication, or mental reservation, that I believe you are CAPABLE OF ANY THING.*—Here's a conquest!—Ha!—methinks I see your foes acknowledging the justice of your sentence, whilst you, sirs, in the exultation of your hearts, are wantonly waving your banners in the air, and triumphantly proclaiming "*victoria, victoria!*"—What a picture!—Oh for our Shakesperian Hogarth's all-creative talents! Soon would my animating pencil breathe it into life!

The foregoing facts, sirs, were industriously introduced to the world immediately after the great man's resignation, in order to support his assertion, that the measures he proposed were founded on what Spain had *already* done. Now, my noble friends, as this was intended as a *knock-down* argument to those who opposed him, I think I have returned the Broughtonian compliment, and given them (as Zanga has it) "*Blow for Blow.*"—

K 2

Some

* I mean, sirs, in a *ministerial* way.

—*Some people will feel it, or I have missed the mark.*

My intention, when I began, were to pourtray the great man, and you, according to the merits of each. My intentions were to “speak of you as you are.” This, sirs, I think I have accomplished. I have exhibited *his* deserts; I have exemplified *yours*. In fine, I have shewn him “quite another sort of a man than “any of you.”—After this, little more can be necessary. I shall therefore make a very few additional remarks, draw a short inference from the whole, and haste to a conclusion.

It appears that monsieur Buffy delivered a memorial on the 23^d day of July 1761, relating to the disputes between Great Britain and Spain; at the same time declaring, that if those objects should bring on a war with Spain, the French king would be obliged to take part therein. This step was looked upon as unprecedented and offensive; it “put the minister

“fter Pitt, fays the Spanifh ambaffador, “ in a *bad humour*,” and in confequence thereof, Mr. P. returned Buffy’s memorial (as the count de Fuentes has it) in an “ *irregular manner* ;” or, to exprefs it more emphatically, in a *contemptuous manner*.—What, firs, was the confequence of this? Buffy’s memorial (and very juftly) was a matter of great furprize to the king. That furprize was naturally increafed, when the Spanifh minifter had afterwards the effrontery (I can give it no milder term) to avow to Lord Bristol, that the faid memorial was delivered with the full approbation and confent of the king of Spain. But as this avowal was accompanied with the moft becoming apologies, and with affurances that fuch memorial fhould never have been delivered, if it had been forefeen that it would have offended; and as foon after the Spanifh minifter at Madrid acquainted our ambaffador there, that the king of Spain had at no time been more intent on cultivating a good correffpondence with us; and the Spanifh ambaffador here making repeated

repeated declarations to the same effect; his Majesty, in justice and prudence, forbore coming to extremities.

Here, before I proceed to the great man, the highest sense of duty and affection to our sovereign prompts me to observe, that all Europe, even our enemies, must acknowledge, that his Majesty conducted himself in this nice and important affair with that caution, equity, and royal condescension, which could proceed only from a really amiable disposition; from a judgment, moderation, and humanity, that distinguish him eminently above all other monarchs; and for which the happiest of subjects revere and belove him, to a degree very little short of idolatry itself. Never had subjects so good and great a King; never had King such loyal and affectionate subjects! They were formed, by the favour of heaven, for each other: He, to rule; They, to obey. He, as an exalted pattern of wisdom and of virtue; They, to humbly imitate so illustrious an example.

As

As to Mr. P—, he behaved in so *uncommon* a manner, there is no bearing it. What, sirs, say Mr. Wall and Count de Fuentes of him? I am certain you think them too much the *gentlemen* to advance a falsehood. Why the first affirms, that nothing but the “*spirit of haughtiness*” and *discord* reigns in him;” and the last, that he is a “man of *pride*, and *unmeasurable ambition*;” and that “during his administration, he treated the affairs of Spain with *little management*, or (as he elegantly explains it) in an *insulting* manner.” Nay, that he had the confidence to assert, “that he would not relax in any thing *till the TOWER of LONDON was taken sword in HAND.*”

What insolence to such good *friends*! and for what? truly because monsieur Buffy *good-naturedly* delivered a memorial in favour of his master's relations; and because the great man thought he had *no business* with it; and because he thought
it

it *very affrontive* both in Spain and France; and because he *foresaw*, what *none of you* did, that the Spaniards had a mind to quarrel with us; and because *this*, and because *that*, and because *t'other*. What a pack of reasons!——Nay, did not the great man do more? Did he not, by his almost *unprecedented* behaviour, oblige the king of Spain (owing to that king's not being quite ready for pulling off the mask) to act beneath the dignity of a great prince, in making *apologies* and *assurances*, which, at the time he was making them, he must know, were nothing *but* APOLOGIES and ASSURANCES? It is true it was not so great a hardship on the Spanish king to be *obliged* to stoop, *by those apologies*, to the King of England; because he was stooping to the greatest and most powerful monarch in Europe: But still it was acting derogatory to that truth, which ought to dwell in every royal breast; and in which his Britannic Majesty is a striking lesson to all the world.

I'll

I'll answer for it, *you* would not, sirs, have behaved with such "*ill humour, haughtiness, discord, pride, unmeasurable ambition, little management,*" and the long train of *et ceteras*, which those microscopic Spanish Dons discovered in Mr. P.—*You* would not have talked of "*relaxing in nothing till the tower of London was taken sword in hand.*" No, heaven knows, *you* would never have given occasion for such complaints——*You* would have quiet relaxed long before——*You* would have been of opinion to get a *peace* as well as *you* could; well knowing, sirs, that a *patched* coat is better than a torn one; and that it will last a *little* while, till it *breaks out* in *holes* again—and then, *you* know, that after *suffering* some trifling *inconvenience* from its being in *holes* a second time, why to be sure it can be *patched* a second time.—I congratulate *you*, sirs, on such amazing proofs of your knowledge, management, and economy.

L

" *The*

“ *The talents of a great minister (and consequently of any great man) are much more seen in preventive than executive measures.*” These are the words of the writer of the letters to the earl of B***, and serve at once as a *satire* on the great man, and an *eulogium* on you. He was for *executing*; you for *preventing*. Unhappily, though you stem’d the torrent some little while, you could not dry up the spring; the rapid stream has at length forced its passage; the flood has hurried us away: and we are overwhelmed in a sea of war.—Upon my word, firs, a tolerable pretty metaphorical passage!

Now, firs, I think I have finished my task. I have rescued the reputation of the injured Spaniards; exposed the great man’s inability and his measures, his affrontive and imperious behaviour; and evinced, to a mathematical demonstration, in your own characters contrasted with his, the amazing difference between the PACIFIC and the SPIRITED. I have convinced

convinced the world, firs, that they ever ought to consider more attentively, many facts which they *call* insults. The tongue of precipitance too often assumes the voice of judgment. Was the native temper of the supposed insulted party, before we presumed to *christen* any occurrence, but more minutely enquired into, how frequently would those we stile *indignities*, be called by some other, very *opposite*, term? — Are not you, firs, happily a *proof* of this assertion? I have incontestibly shewn that the self-same facts which to the eyes of the world appeared as *INSULTS*; appeared not so to you. That series of behaviour in the Spaniards, which to the K. to the great man, to the British nation, was the *bighest* *INDIGNITY*; yet offered to you, whose tempers are so singularly passive, was nothing but a *DECENT DEPORTMENT*, a *BECOMING RESENTMENT*, for *indignities* first thrown on them by British individuals. — No wonder, firs, that the great Mr. Anonymous Versifier should say, “ It is

“ hardly conceivable that he [the great
 “ man] could either desire or expect to
 “ succeed in such an EXTRAVAGANT
 “ proposal: What! to declare war, and
 “ commence hostilities, against a FRIEND-
 “ LY nation. The laws of nature and
 “ of nations; the obligations of treaties;
 “ the common sense of equity and rea-
 “ son; equally disclaim a proceeding, as
 “ UNJUST AS PRECIPITATE.”—To be
 sure, sirs, Mr. Versifier is in the right;
 the event has shewn that it was a *very*
 extravagant, unjust, and precipitate pro-
 posal against such a *friendly* nation.—
 It most certainly was AS unjust, AS pre-
 cipitate; — just AS much the *one* AS the
other.——How happy am I in such
 a brother advocate for the ever memo-
 rable opposition!

I shall conclude with one short remark;
 The corollary, upon the whole, seems to
 be this, IF THE GREAT MAN HAS ABI-
 LITIES FOR A PRIME MINISTER, NONE
 OF YOU HAVE; IF HE HAS NOT, YOU
 ALL HAVE: Let the world read this, and
 judge.

I now

I now take my leave (as the best friends must part) wishing you never may be in want of as warm a zealot in your cause, as

SIR,



Yours, &c. &c. &c.

THE AUTHOR.

F I N I S.



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